

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0091

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MARCH 3 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 128TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS HELD ON MARCH 3 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF FRG REP (BEHREND), BULGARIAN REP (DICHEV) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. IT INCLUDED AN APPEAL TO WESTERN FLANK COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE EASTERN DISBANDMENT PROPOSAL AND RENEWED MENTION OF THE WARSAW PACT'S NOVEMBER 1976 NON FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROPOSAL AND OF THE ALLEGED BENEFITS FOR THE VIENNA TALKS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM ITS ADOPTION. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE BULGARIAN STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. AS A SIGNATORY OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT,
BULGARIA ATTACHES THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO
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COMPLEMENTING POLITICAL DETENTE WITH MILITARY DETENTE
AND, THUS, TO THE CONCRETE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THE
VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS COULD MAKE IN THIS REGARD.

2. THERE EXIST REAL POSSIBILITIES FOR ACHIEVING AN
AGREEMENT PROVIDED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE GUIDED BY
THE AGREED PRINCIPLES OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY,

ESCHEWING UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND MUTUALITY OF REDUCTIONS OBLIGATIONS..

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WARSAW PACT'S NOVEMBER 1976 BUCHAREST PROPOSAL FOR AN AGREEMENT BANNING THE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT IN THE VIENNA TALKS.

4. AT BUCHAREST, THE WARSAW PACT STATES ALSO DECLARED THEIR DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR POWER TO GUARANTEE PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS, SOMETHING WHICH CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED ON A MUTUAL, EQUITABLE BASIS.

5. THE SOCIALIST PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT SOUGHT UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND HAVE EMPHASIZED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE.

6. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE GRATIFIED THAT THE RECENT CANADIAN PLENARY STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THE COMPROMISE CHARACTER OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19, 1976 PROPOSAL AS REGARDS DIVIDING THE REDUCTION PROCESS INTO TWO STAGES, BUT MUST POINT OUT THAT THAT PROPOSAL ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT OTHER WESTERN POSITIONS, NOTABLY WITH RESPECT TO THE WILLINGNESS OF THE USSR TO JOIN WITH THE U.S. IN TAKING NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS.

7. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE NEGATIVE WESTERN ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL, WHICH, UNLIKE THE WESTERN MIXED-PACKAGE CONCEPT, PROVIDES CONFIDENTIAL

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A PRACTICAL AND REALIZABLE APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS.

8. IT IS PARTICULARLY ESSENTIAL THAT AN AGREEMENT LEAD TO THE REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THEIR MEANS OF DELIVERY.

9. ON THE ISSUE OF SAFEGUARDING THE SECURITY OF THE FLANK STATES, EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE WISHES OF WESTERN FLANK PARTICIPANTS AND HAVE MADE A CONCRETE PROPOSAL FOR THE DISBANDMENT OF FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM THE REDUCTIONS AREA.

10. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE DEALT WITH FLANK SECURITY IN ONLY THE MOST GENERAL WAY, WITHOUT OFFERING CONCRETE PROPOSALS OF THEIR OWN.

11. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD LIKE TO ASK THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY, GREECE, ITALY, DENMARK AND NORWAY WHAT IS IT THEY OBJECT TO IN THE EASTERN

DISBANDMENT PROPOSAL.

12. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE SHOULD IT TURN OUT THAT WESTERN FAILURE TO ADDRESS FLANK SECURITY HOLDS UP CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT.

13. THE SECURITY OF FLANK STATES WOULD BE ENHANCED BY REDUCTIONS UNDERTAKEN ON A MUTUAL AND EQUIVALENT BASIS -- A BASIS WHICH ADHERES TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY AND WOULD LEAVE UNDISTURBED THE HISTORICALLY ARRIVED AT RELATIONSHIP OF APPROXIMATE EQUALITY OF FORCES IN THE AREA.

14. THE WESTERN APPROCH TO REDUCTIONS, IN CONTRAST, IS BASED ON THE UNJUSTIFIED CONCEPT OF DISPARITIES.

15. THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION IS CONVINCED THAT AN
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AGREEMENT, WHICH IS DESIRED BY PUBLIC OPINION, CAN BE ACHIEVED SOON.

16. THE BULGARIAN HEAD OF STATE, TODOR ZHIVKOV, HAS SAID THE ONGOING ARMS RACE CONSTITUTES THE FUNDAMENTAL DANGER TO PEACE TODAY.

17. THE PEOPLE AND AGOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA HOPE THAT 1977 WILL BE MARKED BY THE CONCLUSIONOF A FIRST AGREEMENT IN THESE TALKS. RESOR

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